

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 206

Washington, D. C.

April 30, 1927

### CONTENTS

Page	Page
Congressional committee asks suggestions on internal revenue taxation.. 553	Revision of freight rates in Southwest ordered ..... 559
Canvass started for Canned Foods Week funds ..... 553	Canned fruits for Veterans' Bureau .. 560
Abstracts of canning technology ..... 559	Fertilizing white beans ..... 561
Effect of pits and seeds on swells ..... 557	Canned fruit industry in Australia .. 561
Decision on enforcement of Federal Trade Commission's orders ..... 558	Will continue fish studies ..... 562
	Report on removal of spray residues.. 562

### Congressional Committee Asks Suggestions on Internal Revenue Taxation

The Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation created under the last revenue law to study the operation and effects of the federal system of internal revenue taxation (particularly income taxes) and to recommend improvements in the law and its administration, has invited trade associations, chambers of commerce and like bodies, or their individual members, to submit written criticisms or suggestions. Chairman W. R. Green of the Committee, in his letter regarding this matter, states:

"Communications of a wholly general nature are practically without value. The task is to improve specific provisions in the law and specific administrative modes or practices. Where practicable, reference should be made to the title and sections of the act involved and drafts of proposed changes in the law should be submitted. To be given careful consideration and study, suggestions should be mailed to the Committee, Room 452 House Office Building, Washington, D. C., without undue delay."

### Canvass Started for Canned Foods Week Funds

Plans for an intensive canvass of the entire canning industry to obtain funds for the 1927 Canned Foods Week campaign were mapped out at a meeting of the secretaries of state canners associations with the Canners Canned Foods Week Committee at Chicago on April 27.

It was the sentiment of the meeting that, in view of the increase each year in the number of markets participating in the

campaign, the work in 1927 will require at least as much money as was raised last year, while all agreed that the present situation of the industry really calls for a larger amount to be expended in stimulating consumption of its products.

The state secretaries will endeavor to reach every canner in their districts, by personal call, by meetings, or by correspondence. Each canner will be asked to contribute on the basis of his pack in 1926 at the rate of \$1 per thousand cases of seasonal products.

In order that the Committee may know what funds will be available, so that orders for display materials may be placed and other features of the campaign planned to advantage, the secretaries will conduct their canvass as rapidly as possible. The amounts pledged by subscribers, however, will not be collected until August 1, or later.

Besides planning the canvass for funds, the state secretaries and members of the Canned Foods Week Committee also discussed the organization of the work, particularly ways in which the industry may cooperate with the local committees appointed by the brokers and jobbers. A special effort will be made this year to get individual cannerymen to push Canned Foods Week in their own communities, and to arouse and maintain the interest of their brokers in the work.

Those present at the meeting included: Royal F. Clark and Herbert L. Herrington, of the Canned Foods Week Committee; John P. Street, Association of New York State Cannerymen; Harry Imwold, Baltimore Canned Foods Exchange; Walter Trego, Illinois Cannerymen Association; Kenneth N. Rider, Indiana Cannerymen Association; George R. Kelley, Iowa-Nebraska Cannerymen Association; Chester Ray, Michigan Cannerymen Association, W. J. Imig, Minnesota Cannerymen Association; E. M. Burns, Northwest Cannerymen Association; Roy Irons, Ohio Cannerymen Association; Nelson B. Wehler, Pennsylvania Cannerymen Association; R. D. Callen, Southern California Cannerymen Association; W. B. Stokely, Tennessee Cannerymen Association; F. M. Shook, Tri-State Packers Association; F. W. Brugh, Virginia Cannerymen Association, and W. E. Nicholoy, Wisconsin Cannerymen Association.

#### Abstracts of Canning Technology

Numbers 3 and 4, Volume 4, of "Abstracts of Canning Technology" have been combined in one issue, together with an index for that volume, and a copy is being sent to all members with this number of the Information Letter.

### Effect of Pits and Seeds on Swells

Various canners at different times have suggested that there is some connection between the tendency of pits or seeds to sprout in the spring-time and the development of swells in fruits that contain pits or seeds. This suggestion ignores two facts: first, all the germs in the pits and seeds are probably killed by the heat of processing; second, even if the germs were uninjured by the heat they must have oxygen in order to sprout, and the cans are devoid of free oxygen because any oxygen that might remain in them at the time they were sealed would very promptly be used up by interaction with the metal of the cans.

Nevertheless, that pits or seeds might contain something which, from a chemical standpoint, would tend to cause hydrogen springers and swells, or even perforations, is not only reasonable but in line with much of the information developed on this subject. Coloring matter in many of the fruits greatly intensifies their corrosive action on the can, and it has been suggested that there are probably other substances in the fruit which do this. Experimentally, a number of known substances that might occur in fruits and vegetables in different forms have been tried out.

With a view to securing definite information in regard to cherry pits, the following experiment was conducted by the Research Laboratory. On June 21, 1926, a lot of Montmorency cherries was divided into three portions, which were canned respectively as follows:

- No. 1—The cherries were unpitted
- No. 2—The cherries were pitted
- No. 3—The cherries were pitted, but 3½ ounces of the pitted cherries in each can were replaced by 3½ ounces of crushed pits.

The idea of crushing the pits was to permit a more rapid diffusion throughout the contents of the can of any substances in the kernels. The following table gives the loss due to hydrogen swells and perforations as found at subsequent examinations:

	LOT 1	LOT 2	LOT 3
February 14, 1927 .....	2%	0%	8%
March 15, 1927 .....	2%	0%	24%
April 20, 1927 .....	2%	4%	50%

The actual loss in swells and perforations tells only half the story, however. On April 20th, when the last examination was

made, the cherries containing the crushed pits were all completely decolorized or bleached, even in cans which externally appeared normal, whereas the cans of the pitted and the unpitted cherries without any added crushed pits retained most of their original color. The reason for this intense bleaching by the crushed pits is probably to be found in the greater action of the contents upon the can due to additional corrosive agents contained in the kernels. It is doubtful if much of this material would diffuse through the unbroken pits; consequently there is probably not a great deal of difference in the majority of cases between pitted and unpitted cherries.

#### Decision on Enforcement of Federal Trade Commission's Orders

The U. S. Supreme Court, in a decision handed down April 18, held that the Claire Furnace Company and 21 other companies which had been ordered by the Federal Trade Commission to furnish monthly reports on cost of production, etc., were not entitled to relief by injunction against enforcement of the order, because the companies had no cause to fear the order of the Commission until the Attorney General had taken action against them.

This case has been in the courts since 1920. In 1919 Congress appropriated \$150,000 for the use of the Federal Trade Commission in the collection and publication of current information with respect to production, ownership, manufacture, storage, distribution, prices, etc., of foodstuffs and other necessities. The Commission thereupon undertook, by the use of elaborate questionnaires, to collect detailed information from the Claire Furnace Company and other firms engaged in the iron and coal business.

These firms then petitioned the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia to restrain the Commission from enforcement of its orders. Without questioning the firms' right to seek relief by injunction, the Commission admitted issuance of the orders and claimed authority therefor under Sections 6 and 9 of the Federal Trade Commission Act. The District Court held that as the questions asked by the Commission were not limited to interstate commerce and as they also asked for detailed information concerning mining, manufacture and intrastate commerce they were beyond the Commission's authority. It accordingly granted the firms' petition for an injunction. The District Court of Appeals affirmed this action. The Federal Trade Com-

mission then appealed from this decision to the United States Supreme Court, which has now reversed the decree of the District Court by holding that the trial court should have refused to entertain the petition for an injunction.

In pointing out why the trial court should have refused to entertain the petition, and the proper procedure for the Federal Trade Commission in seeking enforcement of its orders under Sections 6 and 9 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, the U. S. Supreme Court stated:

"It was intended by Congress \* \* \* to impose upon the Attorney General the duty of examining the scope and propriety of the orders, and of sifting out of the mass of inquiries issued what in his judgment was pertinent and lawful before asking the Court to adjudge forfeitures for failure to give the great amount of information required or to issue a mandamus against those whom the orders affected and who refused to comply. The wide scope and variety of questions, answers to which are asked in these orders, show the wisdom of requiring the chief law officer of the Government to exercise a sound discretion in designating the inquiries to enforce which he shall feel justified in invoking the action of the Court. In a case like this, the exercise of this discretion will greatly relieve the Court and may save it much unnecessary labor and discussion. The purpose of Congress in this requirement is plain, and we do not think that the Court below should have dispensed with such assistance. Until the Attorney General acts, the defendants can not suffer, and when he does act, they can promptly answer and have full opportunity to contest the legality of any prejudicial proceeding against them. That right being adequate they were not in a position to ask relief by injunction."

#### Revision of Freight Rates in Southwest Ordered

Revision of the freight rates structure in the Southwest, including class and many commodity rates and involving both increases and reductions, has been ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The effective date of the order covering the interstate rates is December 5, upon sixty days' notice.

The decision includes not only Oklahoma and Texas but Arkansas and Louisiana west of the Mississippi River and parts of Kansas and Missouri. It includes revision of rates from and to grouped points in the States beyond the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and east of the Rocky Mountain States. The lat-

ter rates are to be constructed by addition of specific amounts or arbitraries up to or beyond Kansas City, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg, or New Orleans, as the cases may be. Ocean and rail group rates from and to North Atlantic ports and interior points via South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico ports are prescribed.

For the four southwestern States a distance scale of first class interstate rates is prescribed, applicable to both single and joint line hauls. It has a different progression, but will average on the whole about 10 per cent higher than the class scale recently prescribed by the Commission for the Southeast. The same scale is approved for Kansas and southern Missouri except those portions within approximately 150 miles of the Missouri River cities, for which a scale about 7 per cent lower is approved.

A new rate structure is provided. It consists of ten class and nine commodity scales. The construction is such that additional scales may be inserted as found desirable or necessary. Maximum reasonable rates on about 35 particular commodities are prescribed by assignment of the commodities to certain of the class scales or certain of the nine commodity scales.

Among the commodities on which specific carload rates are prescribed are agricultural implements, bags and bagging, canned goods, iron and steel articles, soap, live and dressed poultry, wooden barrels and kegs, fruits and vegetables, glass bottles, syrup and molasses, bagging and ties, coffee, fertilizer, sugar, starch, butter and eggs, cotton fabrics, furniture, roofing materials and vinegar.

#### Canned Fruits for Veterans' Bureau

The U. S. Veterans' Bureau is asking for bids, to be opened June 24, 1927, on the following items:

Apples, 1,369 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Applebutter, 131 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Applesauce, 382 doz. No. 2 cans.  
Cherries, red sour pitted, 382 doz. No. 2 cans; 1,050 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Raspberries, red, 1,080 doz. No. 2 cans; 1,103 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Blackberries, 382 doz. No. 2 cans; 1,102 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Loganberries, 1,080 doz. No. 2 cans; 1,103 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Jam, raspberry, 234 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Jam, apricot, 234 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Jam, blackberry, 234 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Jelly, red currant, 234 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Jelly, crabapple, 234 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Jelly, grape, 234 doz. No. 10 cans.



Preserves, cherry, 234 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Preserves, strawberry, 234 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Preserves, peach, 234 doz. No. 10 cans.  
Marmalade, orange, 234 doz. No. 10 cans.

Each article is for delivery not later than December 1, in various quantities, to Philadelphia, New Orleans, Chicago, and San Francisco. Copies of schedules on which to submit bids may be obtained upon application to the U. S. Veterans' Bureau, Washington, D. C.

#### Fertilizing White Beans

The effect of rate and method of application of fertilizer on the germination of white beans is discussed in an article by C. E. Millar and J. F. Mitchell in the *Journal of the American Society of Agronomy* for April. The article is based on a series of experiments with Anaconda phosphate, monocalcium phosphate, 16% acid phosphate, and commercial 3-12-4 fertilizer applied in direct contact with the seed, above the seed, and broadcast. It was found that serious damage was caused by smaller amounts of Anaconda than the ordinary distributing machinery can be relied on to apply accurately, hence it is not advisable to apply this fertilizer in the row or above the seed when planting beans. Applied broadcast and thoroughly mixed with the surface two inches of soil, 350 pounds of Anaconda per acre had no retarding influence on germination.

Application of 16% acid phosphate up to 350 pounds per acre in direct contact with the seed did not decrease germination, but application of 200 pounds or more resulted in retardation of growth. As much as 400 pounds placed above the seed caused no decrease in germination or injury to the plant.

The 3-12-4 composition proved more toxic than 16% acid phosphate when applied in direct contact with and above the seed.

#### Canned Fruit Industry in Australia

From a report received by the U. S. Department of Commerce through their representative in Sydney, the Australian fruit crop has been affected this year by dry weather and insects, so that the quantity of canned fruits produced is not expected to reach more than 70% of last year's output. The report states that this may mean a shortage of canned fruit on the Australian market, as export requirements will be filled in order to retain established business connections.

### Will Continue Fish Studies

The U. S. Bureau of Fisheries has announced that its investigation on the life histories of the cod, pollock and haddock, first started in 1923, will be continued in 1927, for which an extensive program has been mapped out.

### Report on Removal of Spray Residues

In Bulletin 226 issued in February, the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station at Corvallis furnishes a "progress report on the removal of spray residues from apples and pears." The summary of the report states that no form of mechanical cleansing thus far tested out has proved effective under all conditions. Certain acids and bases remove the residue in varying degrees of effectiveness, but only a comparatively few compounds offer possibilities from a practical standpoint. Of the many compounds tested, none has proved superior to hydrochloric acid. Sodium hydroxide is the only basic compound found that successfully removed arsenate of lead under all conditions, but it resulted in more or less injury to the storage quality of fruit.